

Chester, NH



Community Contact

Town of Chester Planning Department
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Municipal Office Hours

Monday through Friday, 8 am - 4 pm: Town Clerk, Tax
Collector: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday,
8 am - 12:30 pm, Tuesday, 8 am - 3:30 pm

County
Labor Market Area
Tourism Region
Planning Commission
Regional Development

Rockingham
Nashua, NH-MA NECTA Division
Merrimack Valley
Southern NH
Regional Economic Development Corp.

Election Districts

US Congress
Executive Council
State Senate
State Representative

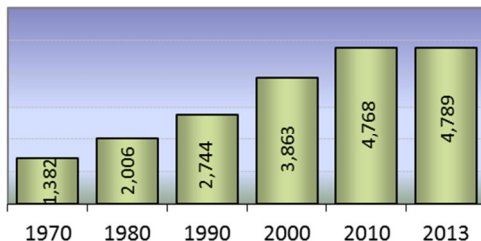
District 1
District 3
District 23
Rockingham County District 4

Incorporated: 1722

Origin: Chester was first known as the chestnut country, and may have been the first of the settlement grants by the Governor of Massachusetts in 1722 for expansion of New Hampshire's seacoast settlements. Many new settlers were from Hampton, Newbury, Kingston, and Portsmouth, which were considered overcrowded. Settlers were required to plant, build houses, lay out roads, and construct a church and schoolhouse, or they would forfeit the land. The name Chester apparently came from Cheshire County in England, whose county seat is Chester, and Earl of Chester is a title held by the Prince of Wales. The towns of Auburn, Candia, Derryfield (renamed Manchester), Hooksett, and Raymond were later formed from Chester's original 100 square mile grant.

Villages and Place Names: North Chester

Population, Year of the First Census Taken: 1,902 residents in 1790



Population Trends: Population change for Chester totaled 3,736 over 53 years, from 1,053 in 1960 to 4,789 in 2013. The largest decennial percent change was a 45 percent increase between 1970 and 1980; the smallest, a 23 percent increase between 2000 and 2010. The 2013 Census estimate for Chester was 4,789 residents, which ranked 73rd among New Hampshire's incorporated cities and towns.

Population Density and Land Area, 2013 (US Census Bureau): 184.0 persons per square mile of land area, which tied with Gifford. Chester contains 26.0 square miles of land area and 0.09 square miles of inland water area.

MUNICIPAL SERVICES			
Type of Government		Selectmen	
Budget: Municipal Appropriations, 2014		\$4,850,424	
Budget: School Appropriations, 2014		\$12,762,612	
Zoning Ordinance		1960/13	
Master Plan		2012	
Capital Improvement Plan		Yes	
Industrial Plans Reviewed By		Planning Board	
Boards and Commissions			
Elected:	Selectmen; Library; Budget		
Appointed:	Planning; Zoning; Conservation; Recreation; Agriculture		
Public Library	Chester Public		
EMERGENCY SERVICES			
Police Department		Full-time	
Fire Department		Full & part-time	
Emergency Medical Service		Municipal	
Nearest Hospital(s)		Distance	Staffed Beds
Parkland Medical Center, Derry		7 miles	82
Elliot Hospital, Manchester		11 miles	279
UTILITIES			
Electric Supplier		Eversource Energy; NH Electric Coop	
Natural Gas Supplier		None	
Water Supplier		Private wells	
Sanitation		Private septic	
Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant		No	
Solid Waste Disposal			
Curbside Trash Pickup		Private	
Pay-As-You-Throw Program		No	
Recycling Program		Mandatory	
Telephone Company		Granite State; Fairpoint	
Cellular Telephone Access		Yes	
Cable Television Access		Yes	
Public Access Television Station		Yes	
High Speed Internet Service:		Business	Yes
		Residential	Yes
PROPERTY TAXES		(NH Dept. of Revenue Administration)	
2013 Total Tax Rate (per \$1000 of value)		\$25.17	
2013 Equalization Ratio		96.9	
2013 Full Value Tax Rate (per \$1000 of value)		\$24.31	
2013 Percent of Local Assessed Valuation by Property Type			
Residential Land and Buildings		92.5%	
Commercial Land and Buildings		2.4%	
Public Utilities, Current Use, and Other		5.1%	
HOUSING		(ACS 2009-2013)	
Total Housing Units		1,671	
Single-Family Units, Detached or Attached		1,597	
Units in Multiple-Family Structures:			
Two to Four Units in Structure		18	
Five or More Units in Structure		13	
Mobile Homes and Other Housing Units		43	

DEMOGRAPHICS		(US Census Bureau)	
Total Population		Community	County
2013	4,789		297,728
2010	4,768		295,223
2000	3,863		278,748
1990	2,744		246,744
1980	2,006		190,345
1970	1,382		138,951
Demographics, American Community Survey (ACS) 2009-2013			
Population by Gender			
Male	2,255	Female	2,534
Population by Age Group			
Under age 5			295
Age 5 to 19			982
Age 20 to 34			610
Age 35 to 54			1,693
Age 55 to 64			730
Age 65 and over			479
Median Age			43.0 years
Educational Attainment, population 25 years and over			
High school graduate or higher			94.3%
Bachelor's degree or higher			33.0%
INCOME, INFLATION ADJUSTED \$		(ACS 2009-2013)	
Per capita income			\$39,816
Median family income			\$108,723
Median household income			\$105,104
Median Earnings, full-time, year-round workers			
Male			\$75,076
Female			\$51,536
Individuals below the poverty level			5.9%
LABOR FORCE		(NHES – ELMI)	
Annual Average	2003		2013
Civilian labor force	2,589		2,838
Employed	2,452		2,697
Unemployed	137		141
Unemployment rate	5.3%		5.0%
EMPLOYMENT & WAGES		(NHES – ELMI)	
Annual Average Covered Employment	2003		2013
Goods Producing Industries			
Average Employment	72		72
Average Weekly Wage	\$ 862		\$ 942
Service Providing Industries			
Average Employment	208		170
Average Weekly Wage	\$ 583		\$ 694
Total Private Industry			
Average Employment	280		242
Average Weekly Wage	\$ 655		\$ 768
Government (Federal, State, and Local)			
Average Employment	156		154
Average Weekly Wage	\$ 432		\$ 625
Total, Private Industry plus Government			
Average Employment	436		396
Average Weekly Wage	\$ 575		\$ 713

EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE

Schools students attend:	Chester operates grades K-8; grades 9-12 are tuitioned to Pinkerton Academy (Derry)				District: SAU 82
Career Technology Center(s):	Pinkerton Academy CATE, Derry; Salem High School Vocational Center				Region: 17
Educational Facilities (includes Charter Schools)	Elementary	Middle/Junior High	High School	Private/Parochial	
Number of Schools	1				
Grade Levels	P K 1-8				
Total Enrollment	541				

Nearest Community College: **Manchester; Nashua**Nearest Colleges or Universities: **New England; Mount Washington College; Southern NH University; UNH-Manchester**2014 NH Licensed Child Care Facilities (DHHS-Bureau of Child Care Licensing) Total Facilities: **3** Total Capacity: **41**

LARGEST BUSINESSES	PRODUCT/SERVICE	EMPLOYEES	ESTABLISHED
Stone Machine Co., Inc.	Machine shop	15	1980

TRANSPORTATION (*distances estimated from city/town hall*)

Road Access	US Routes	
	State Routes	102, 121, 121A
Nearest Interstate, Exit		I-93, Exit 4
	Distance	8 miles
Railroad		No
Public Transportation		CART
Nearest Public Use Airport, General Aviation		
Manchester-Boston Regional	Runway	9,250 ft. asphalt
Lighted? Yes	Navigation Aids?	Yes
Nearest Airport with Scheduled Service		
Manchester-Boston Regional	Distance	15 miles
Number of Passenger Airlines Serving Airport		4
Driving distance to select cities:		
Manchester, NH		14 miles
Portland, Maine		86 miles
Boston, Mass.		49 miles
New York City, NY		254 miles
Montreal, Quebec		269 miles

COMMUTING TO WORK (*ACS 2009-2013*)

Workers 16 years and over	
Drove alone, car/truck/van	88.5%
Carpooled, car/truck/van	3.7%
Public transportation	0.0%
Walked	0.9%
Other means	1.1%
Worked at home	5.8%
Mean Travel Time to Work	18.0 minutes

Percent of Working Residents: ACS 2009-2013

Working in community of residence	13.6
Commuting to another NH community	80.2
Commuting out-of-state	6.2

RECREATION, ATTRACTIONS, AND EVENTS

X	Municipal Parks
	YMCA/YWCA
	Boys Club/Girls Club
	Golf Courses
	Swimming: Indoor Facility
	Swimming: Outdoor Facility
	Tennis Courts: Indoor Facility
	Tennis Courts: Outdoor Facility
	Ice Skating Rink: Indoor Facility
	Bowling Facilities
	Museums
	Cinemas
	Performing Arts Facilities
	Tourist Attractions
X	Youth Organizations (i.e., Scouts, 4-H)
X	Youth Sports: Baseball
X	Youth Sports: Soccer
	Youth Sports: Football
X	Youth Sports: Basketball
	Youth Sports: Hockey
	Campgrounds
X	Fishing/Hunting
X	Boating/Marinas
	Snowmobile Trails
	Bicycle Trails
	Cross Country Skiing
X	Beach or Waterfront Recreation Area
X	Overnight or Day Camps

Nearest Ski Area(s): **McIntyre**

Other: